

Youth Advisory Board Minutes
October 1, 2015

Members present were: Ken Lesser, Rachel Bahouth, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, and Leslie Esoian, Maria Alfonso, Colleen Keane, Barbara Ruhe. Also present were: Rachael Sunny-Youth Development Manager, Erica Teixeira-Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Katie Mezick-Social and Youth Services Intern, Beatrice Maslowski- Hunger Action Team Coordinator (guest speaker) , Brook Berry-Library Director, Beth Katsoris-Meehan-Youth Librarian, Gerri Roberts-Town Council Liaison, and Kathy Bagley-Director of Social and Youth Services.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairperson Barbara Ruhe.

Approval of June 4th 2015 Minutes:

- Emily Daigle made a motion to accept the minutes and Ken Lesser seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

- An accurate report will be printed out for next meeting per Kathy Bagley. The account is roughly \$7,000 after the \$1000.00 YAB-IT scholarship.

Youth Services Report:

- Friday Night Hang Out
 - Started the fall session for both 6th and 7th graders. Each grade will meet on different Fridays twice a month.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads)
 - Fall session is taking place at the middle school. Cooking and Lights, Camera, Action will be offered.
- Intramurals at the Middle School
 - Fall intramurals have started (from a grant awarded by the Keane Foundation) to support 80 youth to participate, each youth will be able to attend twice a week. Such activities as dodge ball, basketball.
 - Emily Daigle mentioned that the school will be hosting an assembly called Ryan's Story at the end of October.
 - Police and Youth Grant- Social and Youth Services has been awarded \$10,000 for this year. Program will begin in October, with a goal for positive youth interaction with patrol police in town.

Old Business:

- Youth Advisory Board Composition
 - The board has vacant slots and looking to fill them. Members discussed ideas regarding recruitment, with one position being a youth (possibly middle school).
 - Members that have renewed terms are Chris Healy, Emily Daigle, Eric Knapp, and Leslie Esoian. The group is looking to make contact with Sophia Fortunato regarding her position and interest on the board.

- **Mentoring Program**
 - Rachael Sunny has been in communication with the Governor's Prevention Partnership, and registered online with the training/curriculum manual to look at starting a mentoring program. Rachael shared the downloaded material with the sub-committee/board. Rachael continues to participate in the ongoing training available and bringing information to the board. The board is currently looking for a mentoring site coordinator to present at a future Youth Advisory Board Meeting.
 - A sub-committee for mentoring was established and they held one meeting over the summer. The sub-committee was tasked with dividing up logistics of a mentoring program that would need to be researched further. Sub-committee members shared thoughts and ideas from the summer meeting.
 - The group discussed how this is a big project that lots of dedicated time. The group was in agreement to keep researching what it takes to run a successful mentoring program and hope to have a presenter from another site sometime in the near future.

New Business:

- **Hunger Action Teams (HAT) - Ken Lesser mentioned the thought of starting one in Wethersfield to focus on poverty and ending hunger at the June 2015 meeting. Beatrice Maslowski from food share presented to the Youth Advisory Board.**
 - The goal is to start a Hunger Action Team in Wethersfield by the end of this calendar year with Beatrice coordinating and multiple local partners and providers.
 - Beatrice Maslowski shared important data and information regarding food gaps in the Town of Wethersfield. Members shared that the information was alarming and surprising, and are supportive of a HAT here in Wethersfield.
 - Erica Texeira shared information regarding our local food bank, as well as poverty and asset limited individuals and families here in Wethersfield.
 - Emily Daigle also shared that Wethersfield Schools are very interested in looking at hunger/poverty issues. Emily mentioned some important data from the schools that shows they are seeing a need to address hunger.
- **CASAC grant/Needs Assessment Survey**
 - The Capital Area Substance Abuse Council yearly grant application is due at the end of October. Social and Youth Services will be getting a slight increase in funds which will make the total grant \$5,323.00. Social and Youth Services plan is to use the funds similar to the years prior - afterschool programs, substance prevention conference, possible parenting programs, and possible needs assessment.
 - The needs assessment survey would be conducted in school this upcoming spring with results in the late summer, early fall. The survey would be conducted in order to better serve youth and community needs. The hope is to target better prevention programs with future grant opportunities. The school mentioned they would like some more information and clarification before approving a survey to be conducted. Social and Youth Services will provide a representative from the group ERASE (that conducts the survey) to follow up.

- The Board was in support of how the CASAC grant will be used this upcoming year.
- Kathy Bagley shared that this was Gerry Roberts (Town Council Liaison) last meeting. All wished and thanked her for all her time and dedication.

At 8:46pm Emily Daigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Maria Alfonso.

Next meeting is November 5th, 2015, at 7:00 PM Town Hall, Lower Level, and Conference Room #1.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Texeira